

# Residents of all ages 'Bike Arlington Heights' as village plans upgrades for cyclists

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From seasoned cyclists to tots towed in trailers, residents of all ages joined forces Saturday morning for the [Bike Arlington Heights](#) Fall Bike Ride.

About 70 participants started riding from North School Park for the event, which included a 14-mile scenic bike tour of the village and a four-mile starter loop for novices, said Arlington Heights resident Juergen Juffa, chairman of the Arlington Heights Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

While the ride was not a race, most participants maintained a casual pace, completing the 14-mile tour in about 90 minutes, Juffa said.

"This a great celebration of the cycling community, which is part of the fabric of Arlington Heights," Juffa said.

Representing the sixth community-wide bike ride since 2014, the latest event again featured officers from the Arlington Heights Police Department's bike patrol who accompanied cyclists and offered guidance along the route, Juffa said.

The ride also featured bicycle mechanical assistance from Village Cycle, he said.

The fall ride also coincided with some new developments for area bike enthusiasts after the Arlington Heights Village Board voted unanimously earlier this month to approve a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plan for the village, Juffa said.

The plan, which was funded by a grant and drafted by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, is based upon information collected via an online survey of 1,100 residents, he said.

With the last village bike plan drafted in 1996, Juffa said, the new plan arrives after three years of research addressing how to best serve pedestrians and bicyclists in the village with infrastructure enhancements, including signage, designated bike lanes, trails and pathways.

The plan also will include promoting the availability of appropriate racks at both public and private venues where cyclists safely can lock their bikes, Juffa said.

"Our focus going forward is looking at the type of obstacles residents have to overcome to reach their destinations in the village on a bike or on foot," Juffa said.

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